

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2007

Secretary Chao,

It has been brought to our attention that Governor Fletcher recently submitted a WIRED grant request to the Department of Labor for the Central Kentucky I-65 corridor.

We believe that approval of this WIRED grant would be beneficial to the Bluegrass State. The area labor force is experiencing a significant transition requiring more high-skilled workers. Toward this end, it is critical to support higher education and encourage entrepreneurship. The requested funds will be helpful in achieving this important objective.

The counties that would benefit from this infusion of funds include Hardin, Nelson, Larue, Breckinridge, Meade, Marion, Washington, Grayson, Shelby, Bullitt, Spencer, Henry, Trimble, Oldham and Jefferson counties.

The Central Kentucky region is noted for its strong infrastructure including rail, roadways, runways, a river, and fiber optic growth. Census data indicates that the region is rapidly changing from a rural economy to an urban economy, attracting some of the world's leading research facilities in medicine and innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Simultaneously, a major operational realignment is underway at Fort Knox that will further increase the regional demand for highly-skilled employees to fill thousands of new white collar jobs.

The WIRED Initiative - Third Generation goal is to expand employment and advancement opportunities for American workers and encourage the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities in regional economies. We believe this grant request meets those parameters and would be a sound investment of tax dollars to advance economic development in Kentucky.

Therefore, we encourage the U.S. Department of Labor to give full and fair consideration, within all applicable laws and regulations, of this grant application.

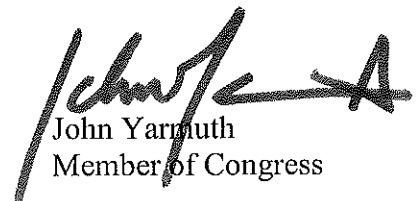
Sincerely,



Ron Lewis
Member of Congress



Geoff Davis
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress